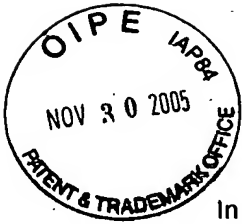


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s/ Pamela Hollander
Pamela Hollander

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:
Allen BORCHARDT, et al.

Serial No.: 10/718,337

Confirmation No.: 9247

Filed: November 19, 2003

For: **INHIBITORS OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS
RNA-DEPENDENT RNA POLYMERASE,
AND COMPOSITIONS AND TREATMENTS
USING THE SAME**

Group Art Unit: 1625

Examiner: **Amelia A. OWENS**

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

The following comments are offered in response to the Office Action, mailed August 19, 2005, in the above-identified application.

First, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the informative and productive interview conducted with Applicants' representative on November 17, 2005.

Status of Claims

Claims 5 to 32 are currently pending in the application and claims 30 and 31 are withdrawn from consideration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b) pursuant to a restriction requirement in a prior Office Action. In the previous Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Further, claims 6, 8, 10, and 32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Finally, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claims 11 to 29 was allowable and that claims 6, 8, 10, and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner has withdrawn all the rejections of record, but has also withdrawn the indication of allowability for Claims 6, 8, 10 to 29, and 32. Further, the Examiner